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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

A. T. GREGOR Embodiments

October 22 – November 19, 2022
Opening reception Saturday October 22, 6-10PM

Tomato Mouse invites you to a presentation of ten new paintings by A. T. Gregor, her first solo exhibition.

Completed in the past year, these pieces continue Gregor's investigation of body and space through paint. The scale of the work is human or smaller. They employ oil paint in a variety of additive and subtractive processes from illusionistic brushwork to sculpting in paint and carving, incising, scraping and wiping it away to create a subtly layered and activated surfaces that reward close and repeated viewing. The combination of techniques evoke art historical references from early Christian painting to high modernism. Gregor's spaces seem quotidian domestic and yet to open out into the metaphysical. Reversed perspective lines direct the vanishing point back to the viewer, drawing them into the rarified space of the painting. Mirrors and windows create inaccessible annexes. The austerity of the rooms and surfaces depicted forces the sheer beauty of the depiction into high relief.

In "Strange Loop" the modernist imperative that art be honest about its materials is engaged within a pictorial framework. A wall is torn open to reveal luminous particleboard while strips of movie film wrap around the lathe. Brushstrokes on the surface are lengths of wood in a room, frames or stretchers, while being also lines that delineate another proposed space. Given the fictionalized character of the depicted space this other posited space is more mysterious still. The upright structures suggest an instinctual architectural drive of homo erectus, the essential process of assembling. The real wraps behind the depiction then resurfaces, forcing us to hover between understandings, opening up a space for not knowing. Transcendence seems to be located ever more closely within optics and the pleasure of looking, the reciprocity of perception. Four small paintings from the series "Faulty Foundation" engage the surface and break the picture plane while not. Spatulated paint assembles into parquet flooring, extruded paint winds into a rag rug.

"History Painting" enshrines the act of its own creation while the off-kilter image within the image that can't actually be mirror suggests an annunciation with the figures conspicuously removed. The biblical mystery of the Incarnation expressed in Renaissance painting asks how the divine spirit can inhabit corruptible flesh, with paint becoming a correlate to flesh. These paintings activate related questions of how thought and image are encoded in material, how is it that imagination can exist within physical bodies or physical materials. Conversely, no other means are available.

Most recently Gregor showed her paintings in a sold-out presentation with Tomato Mouse at Spring/Break Art Show, NY in 2022 and also in 2021. Gregor has exhibited her paintings at Artists Equity Association in New York, Bromfield Gallery in Boston, 263 Gallery in Cambridge, and Equity Gallery and MC Gallery in Manhattan, among others.

Tomato Mouse is an artist-run gallery in Brooklyn. Gallery hours are Friday and Saturday 1PM to 6PM and by appointment. For more information please contact Rebecca Bird at 347-365-6741 or tomatomousetomatomouse@gmail.com.



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